



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: December 14, 2021

Agenda Item: 2022–2023 Biennial Quota Ranges

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

Background: The department is seeking commission approval for the 2022–2023 quota ranges for limited entry licenses and permits for antelope, bighorn sheep, deer (both white-tailed and mule deer), elk, moose, and mountain goat. These quota ranges are adopted by the commission biennially during the regular season-setting cycle. The authorized quota ranges allow biologists and managers to make quota adjustments outside the biennial season-setting schedule that are within the adopted range. Any changes outside adopted ranges require commission approval. This greatly expedites and simplifies annual quota adjustments. These quotas represent authority and limits to the number of licenses and permits that may be offered by the department. Biologists often make final within-range quota adjustments after scheduled commission meetings but before licenses and permits are drawn. For example, biologists do not complete antelope surveys until mid to late July and sometimes wish to adjust license numbers based on their findings, but changes need to be made before licenses are drawn in early August.

A table of the different licenses and permits for which there are quota ranges is attached to this cover sheet.

Public Involvement Process and Results: Public comment will be accepted on the proposals adopted for comment by the commission. Public comment will be accepted through Jan. 14, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Alternatives and Analysis: The commission may provide the department with additional amendments on any license-permit type for any species, and the department will seek additional public comment on all proposals. A final recommendation will be presented to the commission at their February meeting.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The department recommends the commission approve for public comment the proposed 2022 and 2023 Biennial Quota Ranges as presented by the department and as outlined in the attached master list. Any aspect unchanged from 2021 seasons will remain in effect for 2022 and 2023.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission vote to adopt for public comment quotas and quota ranges identified in the proposed 2022 and 2023 Biennial Quota Range Master List as presented by the department.